



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA ALERT

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Saving Lives and Protecting Property

Texas Child Safety Laws and Regulations

Texas State Child Occupant Protection Law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 2.9.2006

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The Houston Fire Department urges citizens to comply with the "Texas State Child Occupant Protection Law" passed by the State of Texas legislature September 1, 2005. The law reads as follows:

A person commits an offense if the person operates a passenger vehicle, transports a child who is younger than five [four] years of age and [or] less than 36 inches in height, and does not keep the child secured during the operation of the vehicle in a child passenger safety seat system according to the instructions of the manufacturer of the safety seat system.

Summary

- Children age 4 and under and less than 36 inches in height must be properly restrained in an appropriate child safety seat
- Children ages 16 and under must be restrained in some manner in all seating positions
- When Texas does mandate restraint use, it requires the driver to secure both the child safety seat and the child properly

Enforcement

- Driver fined minimum \$100, maximum \$200 for child restraint violation
- Driver fined minimum \$100, maximum \$200 for safety belt violation by occupants 16 and under
- Under a judge's discretion, defendants charged with a child restraint violation could be required to complete a specialized driver safety course that includes four hours of child passenger safety instruction.

Car safety seat checks

To check the correct installation of seat belts, the Texas Children's Childhood Injury Prevention Center and the Greater Houston Coalition for SAFE KIDS sponsor free car seat safety checks.

The greater Houston locations below provide free Safety Seat Inspections. Call first to schedule an appointment.

-more-

Allen Samuels Chevrolet
7000 SW Freeway Hwy 59
Houston
281-754-7040

Community Family Centers
7524 Avenue E
Houston
713-923-2316

Cypress Creek EMS
16650 Sugar Pine Lane
Houston
281-440-9650
Partner: dial extension 132

Harris County's Sheriff's District 3
610 South Main
Houston
281-843-4047

League City EMS/Police Department
600 West Walker Street
League City
281-338-4873

Park Temple Baptist Church
4027 Irvington Street
Houston
713-224-6626

University of Texas Police Department
7777 Knight Road
Houston
832-828-1314
Partner: Spanish Phone: 832-828-1312

University of Texas Police Department
7777 Knight Road
Houston
713-563-7789